

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action dated December 17, 2010.

Present Status of the Application

The abstract is objected to because of the phrase "discloses."

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1-7 and the abstract, so as to respectfully traverse all the above objections and rejections. Upon entry of the amendment, Applicants submit that all the pending claims 1-7 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Response to Objection to the Abstract

The abstract is objected to because of the phrase "discloses."

In response thereto, Applicants have amended the abstract to cancel the phrase "discloses."

Response to Claim Objection

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the word "integering."

Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1-7 to specify that the claimed method is a method used by a hardware apparatus, so as to tie the claimed method to another statutory category under 35 U.S.C. 101.

It can be clearly appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that video encoding/decoding methods for digital images are implemented by a hardware apparatus, in particular a video processing system. Additionally, in page 5 of the originally filed specification, in the last paragraph of the Summary of the Invention, it is stated that the claimed invention is convenient for hardware realization. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the addition of the phrase "used by a hardware apparatus" in claims 1-7 does not constitute new matter.

Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 5, so as to respectfully traverse all the rejections on the following grounds.

In claim 1, the limitation "tp" has been defined as "a distance in time domain between a current picture and a backward reference picture."

In claim 1, the limitation "a/b denotes integering" has been amended to "a/b denotes an integer of a quotient of a and b towards zero, a is the dividend of $MV_F(i)$ or $MV_B(i)$, b is the divisor of $MV_F(i)$ or $MV_B(i)$," so that the issue of insufficient antecedent basis has been resolved.

In claim 1, the limitation "a forward motion vector MV_B " has been amended to "a backward motion vector MV_B ," which is supported by the originally filed specification.

In claims 1, 3, and 5, the unknown symbol " " caused by text encoding errors has been replaced by correct symbols.

Therefore, Applicants submit that as amended, claims 1-7 particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, so that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-7 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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